

**Sacramento River Conservation Area  
Board of Directors  
Minutes**

April 25, 2002  
4:00 p.m.

Hamilton City Community Hall  
Hamilton City, Ca.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	David Womble	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	Dan Silva	Russell Young	
Tehama	(Bill Borrer)	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			(Diana Jacobs) Paul Ward
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			Marie Sullivan
US COE			(Mark Charlton)
Bureau of Reclamation			Laura Allen

Names listed in parentheses represent absences  
Also present an estimated audience of 25 persons  
Manager Burt Bundy  
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary  
The Resources Agency

Tim Ramirez

- 1. Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters:** Tom Evans, FWA, reported that a letter had been sent asking Governor Davis to declare a moratorium on participation by the State in habitat restoration within the floodways of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers until more studies of impact are done. John Merz, SRPT, announced that to help in their efforts to protect the River they have begun to develop a legal defense fund. Sam Lawson, TNC, announced that three of the properties that were previously discussed have closed, the Boeger Property in Colusa County, the Singh Property in Butte County, and the Shahi Property in Glenn County. Sam also indicated there were no options to purchase any new land; they are still pursuing the Westermann and Verschagin Properties. Closing has been held up pending approval for subdivision on the Westermann piece and a lot line adjustment on the Verschagin property. These have come before the Board periodically over the last year and are tied to the Hamilton City J Levee. Sam announced that due to restructuring within TNC, he will be coordinating all of the projects in the Central Valley; Dawit Zeleke will be the interim acting Director for this area.  
Carol Wright, Sacramento River Partners, announced they intend to continue to do work along the River. Carol expressed her feeling that FWA has attempted to dominate discussion for the last few months but there is a large voice representing conservation

interests that support the program. Denny Bungarz noted he had attended a RCRC meeting and they have asked the Legislative Analyst office to look into private land purchases. They also met with the new Operations Manager for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Steve Thompson, who had commented on the relatively small number of Safe Harbor agreements in California as opposed to some other areas.

2. **Consent Calendar** - Dan Silva moved, seconded by Denny Bungarz to adopt the March 28, 2002 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
3. **Agency Reports** - Mike Roberts, TNC, was introduced to present the Ayres Report "Uses of 2 Dimensional Modeling to Assess the Hydraulic Effects of Landscape Modifications RM 194 to 202". The model that was developed was used to analyze the hydraulic impact of proposed land use conversions along the Sacramento River and floodplains. Questions followed the presentation. Les Heringer, M&T, questioned why the model was calibrated to the flood figures of 1995 (15 year) rather than a 50-year flood flow. It was noted the Comprehensive Study is revising their models for the 50-100 flood events. The cost of the study was \$75,000 paid to the engineering firm but the figure does not include all of the staff time, input from The Reclamation Board, funding from CALFED, and pieces of other grants. Shirley Lewis noted there were two residences that need to be considered, referencing the part of the study that looked at removal of two private levees. It was pointed out that the study was for informational purposes and looked at multiple scenarios. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, reported that the Corps is proposing local cost sharing on maintenance of levees required by PL 8499 (Emergency Response) The Reclamation Board is recommending that they not make that a requirement and advised anyone interested to contact him and he will furnish the letter they are using. Laura Allen, Bureau of Reclamation, reported the Bureau is trying to get special use permits to allow some activity across Shasta Dam, which has been closed since 9/11.

4. **Board Committee Reports-**

- **Executive Committee** - Ben reported the Committee discussed the board calendar and when to hold the election of officers, May or June; the Committee recommended to the Board that the elections take place at the June 27 meeting. There was also the suggestion that there not be a Board of Directors meeting in July; the decision on this will be made at a later time. Burt informed the group of a discussion he had recently with the Corps on multi-objective projects that encourage bank protection projects to include restoration. There was concern expressed at the Executive Committee about that policy. It was noted that part of the GNP has an area in it that discusses self-mitigation; they are still working on that language. Pete offered some clarification on the issue; policy does not dictate they have to use multi-objective projects but that is what they are gearing towards. The Corps will do a single use project and then mitigate but trying to provide a safety function along with environmental benefit goes more quickly and costs less. Tim Ramirez noted this issue is a national debate - hoping to do things here to illustrate the process.

- **Landowners Assurances Committee** - did not meet this month. The GNP is still being reviewed; the Chairman noted he will see where the agencies are with their review of the document. The next meeting will be on May 21 at the Colusa Fair Board, 1:30.

- **PILT/Economic Committe** - the Committee did not meet in April; Denny will be sending out a meeting notice for May. At a recent meeting it was reported that the mood in Congress seems to be for full PILT payment; many organizations are looking at full PILT payment as a top priority. Denny suggested the counties need to have a better understand of what payments are coming into the county, from what source, and how they are supposed to be dispersed.

- **Outreach** - Laura Allen reported the group met in Chico on April 18th. The brochure is in process with a tentative completion date of June 27. The group also discussed the new website being developed for project tracking and public access information. The Committee suggested that the June meeting be held outdoors, with a barbeque, possibly at Woodson Bridge.

- **TAC** - Anjanette Martin, TAC chair, reported the TAC is trying to move the project review process forward. Two project proposals by Reclamation District 108 were presented to the TAC using the newly adopted project fact sheet. Anjanette requested some clarification on the process of project review and what is the appropriate path; the Manager agreed to work with her on the review process path. She also asked that a separate committee be appointed to review the Handbook language revisions rather than discussing at the TAC. It was noted that an ad hoc committee had been emailed the proposed changes asking for comments.

The Economic Assessment conducted by Jones and Stokes for The Nature Conservancy will be out in June.

## 5. Manager's Report -

- Discussion began on the CALFED proposal review. Ben noted the deadline for the public comment period is May 10th. A letter has been drafted to CALFED for review by the Board expressing concern about the lack of time for review and requesting that the deadline be extended. Tim Ramirez, The Resources Agency, informed the group that the extension would probably not happen as the PSP process is already 6 months behind. Rebecca Fris, CALFED, also questioned how extensive a review process this will be and noted the SRCA should be looking at consistency; they need to know the "red flags". She also recommended reviewing those that have been funded; the "considered for directed action" can be reviewed at a later date. Ben noted that even reviewing the three funded projects does not allow time for the TAC to make recommendations back to the Board by May 10. Lynnel expressed concern that the SRCA is not following its mission to serve as a forum if it does not allow time for public review; she asked that the funded projects be reviewed at the May 23rd Board meeting and then sending the letter, even if past the deadline. There was concurrence that they need to go through the process. In an effort to expedite things, it was

determined that the SRCA staff will email the information on the funded projects to the TAC group for review and ask for comments back via e-mail. The letter from the TAC regarding the project review process will go out after the e-mail review. A question was raised as to why the projects weren't discussed at this Board meeting; Ben noted that the TAC did not have time to review and make recommendations to the Board by tonight's meeting. It was agreed the May 23rd Board agenda will have a line item for review of those projects; those projects recommended "Consider As Directed Action" will be discussed at the May 16<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting.

- Name Change - The process has been started; the Certificate of amendment has been filed with the state and notification has been sent to the IRS.
- Handbook change update - The letter will go out next week to the MOA signatories and Advisory Council members regarding the changes to the Handbook language as a result of the most recent amendment.

6. **Next meeting** will be on May 23rd at 4:00 in Willows, location TBD.